

**REMARKS**

Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

- Group I. Drawn to a metal contact structure to silicon containing Ti disilicide.
- Group II. Drawn to a metal contact structure to silicon containing Co disilicide.
- Group III. Drawn to a metal contact structure to silicon containing Ni monosilicide.

As indicated, and in order to be fully responsive to the species restriction requirement imposed in the present Official Action, applicants provisionally elect, without traverse, to prosecute species II, which is directed to a metal contact structure to silicon containing Co disilicide. Applicants submit that Claims 23, 25, 26 and 29-35 all read on the species elected herein. Applicants hereby reserve their right to have the other species set forth in the claims considered in the present application, upon allowance of the presently elected species.

Applicants respectfully submit that the species set forth in Groups I and II should be examined together since both are directed to metal contacts made from disilicides.

Wherefore, consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Leslie S. Szivos  
Registration No. 39,394

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER  
400 Garden City Plaza  
Garden City, New York 11530  
(516) 742-4343

LSS:tt

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